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**PATENT**  
**Attorney Docket YOR20000548US2**  
**IBM-281**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of : Gareth Geoffrey Hougham  
Serial Number : 09/834,848  
Filing Date : April 13, 2001  
Examiner : John J. Zimmerman  
Group Art Unit : 1775  
For : DEFORMABLE COATED WICK  
LIQUID SPILLED MATERIAL  
TRANSFER

To: The Honorable Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated February 22, 2005 please amend the  
above-identified application as set forth in Appendix A.

The Examiner is requested to reconsider the rejection of Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)  
as being anticipated by Yan (U.S. Patent 5,322,628).

The present invention relates to the handling of materials where it is necessary to transfer  
a spilled quantity of a material from the location where the spillage occurred to a different  
location and in some instances to storage. With certain materials environmental problems are  
present. The material in the present invention is liquid metal mercury. The setting for the use of

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